

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST - AMB. BARNES

EB/CBS/OSB - E.K. LAWSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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TAGS: BEXP, EPAP, EIND, RO

SUBJECT: JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES: INTERAGENCY GROUP
TRIP TO ROMANIA

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 2301, (B) BUCHAREST 2457

1. JOINT COMMISSION INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP ON,
(A) AGRICULTURE RELATED PROJECTS DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS
BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MICULESCU, AND (B) OTHER MAJOR
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS COVERED BY ROMANIA'S ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN WHICH U.S. PARTICIPATION WOULD BE
DESIRABLE. WE HAVE IN MIND PROGRAMS SUCH AS IRRIGATION IN
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UPPER DANUBE AREA, RECLAMATION OF SALINE SOILS, LIVESTOCK

PRODUCTION, AND GENERAL AREA OF INDUSTRIALIZATION OF
AGRICULTURE INCLUDING EQUIPMENT AND ENGINEERING.

2. HOWEVER, BECAUSE INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE IS VERY
GENERAL, WE NEED CLEARER DEFINITION AND AS MUCH DETAILED
INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON THESE AND OTHER SPECIFIC, MAJOR
PROJECTS IN ROMANIAN AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR BEFORE U.S.
PRIVATE FIRMS CAN PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY.

3. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR BARNES IN WASHINGTON,
FOLLOWING SCENARIO WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED UPON.

(A) FIRST, IF SUCH INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS
IS AVAILABLE AND CAN BE GATHERED BY EMBASSY, IT WOULD
GIVE US A BETTER IDEA OF MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND
HOW BEST TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MARKET OPPORTUNITIES.

(B) SECOND, IF EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT USEFUL, AND
IF ROMANIAN AGRIBUSINESS PROGRAM HAS DEVELOPED TO A
POINT WHERE GOR OFFICIALS ARE NOW PREPARED AND
WILLING TO GET INTO SPECIFIC DETAIL REGARDING
FUTURE PROJECTS, WE COULD SEND SMALL TEAM UNDER
AUSPICES OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION OF ABOUT TWO OR
THREE USG OFFICIALS FROM SEPARATE AGENCIES, INCLUDING
COMMERCE, STATE, AND AGRICULTURE, WHICH COULD
ASSIST EMBASSY IN DEVELOPING THIS REQUIRED INFORMATION
WITH GOR OFFICIALS, TAKING THESE PRELIMINARY STEPS
TO IDENTIFY AND DEFINE FUTURE, LARGE SCALE PROGRAMS.
TEAM COULD BEGIN WORK IN ROMANIA IN LATTER PART OF
JULY. TAKING THESE MARKET IDENTIFICATION STEPS NOW
COULD LAY GROUNDWORK FOR LATER MISSIONS OF U.S.
FIRMS WITH A MORE SPECIFIC FOCUS TO LOOK INTO
ROMANIA'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IDENTIFIED
DURING THIS GROUP'S VISIT.

(C) THIRD, INFORMATION COULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO CONCRETE RESULTS IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD IN PREPARATION
FOR, AND DURING, PROPOSED TRIP TO U.S. LATER THIS
YEAR BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER MICULESCU.

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(D) FINALLY, INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS
IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD WOULD BE USED AS BASIS
FOR DISCUSSION AT AMERICAN-ROMANIAN COMMISSION
MEETING THIS FALL.

4. STEFAN BURCA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, TOLD US THAT MINISTRY OFFICIALS
ARE PREPARED TO GO INTO DETAIL ON THESE AND OTHER

PROJECTS IN THE PLAN. HE SAID THAT AN EARLY DISCUSSION OF THESE PROJECTS WOULD GIVE SHARPER FOCUS FOR MINISTER MICULESCU'S DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. FIRMS, PLANNED FOR LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

5. RECOMMEND STRESSING LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF THIS PROPOSAL IN PRESENTATION TO ROMANIANS. IN VIEW OF PRESENT UNAVAILABILITY OF EXIMBANK CREDITS, WE IN NO REPEAT NO WAY WANT TO GIVE MISLEADING SIGNAL TO ROMANIANS ABOUT POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF CREDITS UNTIL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF TRADE AGREEMENT IS OBTAINED. ACCORDINGLY, EXIMBANK CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS MISSION.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL EMBASSY VIEWS ON SUCH AN ACTIVITY AND, IN CASE OF TRIP TO BUCHAREST BY WASHINGTON TEAM, ON MAKEUP OF PROPOSED TEAM.

7. DURING VISIT WITH COMSEC MORTON, JUNE 11, 1975, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OPREA SUGGESTED EITHER U.S. DELEGATION VISIT ROMANIA OR ROMANIAN DELEGATION VISIT U.S. FOR PURPOSE OF PREPARING LIST OF PRODUCTS ROMANIANS ARE INTERESTED IN SELLING AND BUYING, AND LIST OF AREAS FOR COOPERATION AND POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES (MEMCON OF VISIT EN ROUTE TO EMBASSY). WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEW ON FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING SCOPE OF AGROBUSINESS DELEGATION TO ENCOMPASS THE AREAS COVERED IN MORTON/OPREA DISCUSSION. KISSINGER

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